

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 216

TUESDAY AUGUST 3, 2004

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

INSIDE



Oil Rush

Prospectors have been drilling in Tennessee since the Civil War, searching for oil. While the industry has never amounted to much, this year, some big strikes and healthy prices have got the state back on wildcatters' maps.

Page 8



Cool Wagon

It was cool vanilla. But it was for driving, not licking. It was cool vanilla clear-coat paint over the long, low-slung body of the 2005 Dodge Magnum RT wagon, this week's automobile.

Page 19



Bogus Clinton

Alfred A. Knopf, publishers of Bill Clinton's best-selling "My Life," say they haven't yet sold the Chinese-language rights to China. So China's copyright thieves have struck again, concocting their own versions.

Page 21



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEEDING THE CALL

Gov. Juan N. Babauta talks with U.S. Army reservists from the CNMI and Guam at Scholfield military post in Hawaii. The CNMI sent at least 83 personnel for training in Honolulu in preparation for their possible deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Cape Air eyes regional expansion

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Cape Air and Continental Micronesia yesterday bared plans to expand operations throughout Micronesia, as they vowed to keep offering affordable fares for Continental Connection's new service between Guam and Saipan.

Daniel Wolf, the Massachusetts-based president of Cape Air, said he looks forward to seeing the partnership grow in the Marianas—which, he said, is the farthest destination that Cape Air has ventured into.

"We do have a significant regional operation in the Caribbean and we also have one in Southern Florida, as well as our main base, which is in New England. So we've experienced setting up remote operations before. Not this far away, however. [The Marianas] is 14 time zones away; it's a long way from home," Wolf said. "But

Commonwealth officials hail new Guam-Saipan flights

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Local officials yesterday welcomed the introduction of new flights between Saipan, Rota, and Guam, expressing hope that the competition would bring better service for commuters.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos Salas,

Transportation Security Administration-Saipan Director John Peoples, Marianas Visitors Authority Chairman David Sablan, MVA Managing Director Vicky Benavente, and Rep. Crispin Ogo were only some of the dignitaries who attended the opening ceremony for the new Continental Connection flights at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport yesterday afternoon.

They took turns in expressing their appreciation to Continental Micronesia and Cape Air for providing the additional service.

In an interview, Benavente said the new flights will benefit the Bisita Marianas campaign, which is a joint effort between MVA and Guam Visitors Bureau to promote inter-island

See COMMONWEALTH on Page 12



Wolf

we've really found a new home here. We sent out a lot of parts, a lot of tooling to [start this new service]. We really prepared to make a go at it."

He said discussions are now un-

derway between Cape Air and Continental Micronesia regarding plans to expand the operation of Continental Connection to other islands in the region.

"We're having some very creative and interesting discussions with Continental Micronesia to see if we might help them expand their services even further in the region. Nothing definite yet, but we are

See CAPE on Page 12

Hofschneider's suspension extended indefinitely

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Marianas Public Lands Authority commissioner Henry Hofschneider will not report back to work until the Attorney General's Office concludes an investigation requested by MPLA chairwoman Ana Demapan-Castro.

Hofschneider had to miss the agency's board meeting on Rota yesterday,

after Demapan-Castro extended his suspension indefinitely. He had been suspended for 15 days beginning July 9 for alleged IN subordination.

"I was supposed to report back to work on July 30, but the chair extended the suspension pending the outcome of the AGO's investigation," Hofschneider told the Saipan Tribune late Monday afternoon.

He refused to provide details on the

subject of the AGO investigation, and said only that the next course of action regarding his suspension will depend on the result of the probe.

Demapan-Castro was on Rota and could not be contacted as of presstime yesterday. The Saipan Tribune also tried, but failed to reach Attorney General Pamela Brown.

In her July 9 suspension order against
See HOFSCHEIDER on Page 12

CNMI prepares 'better' presentation for DOI conference

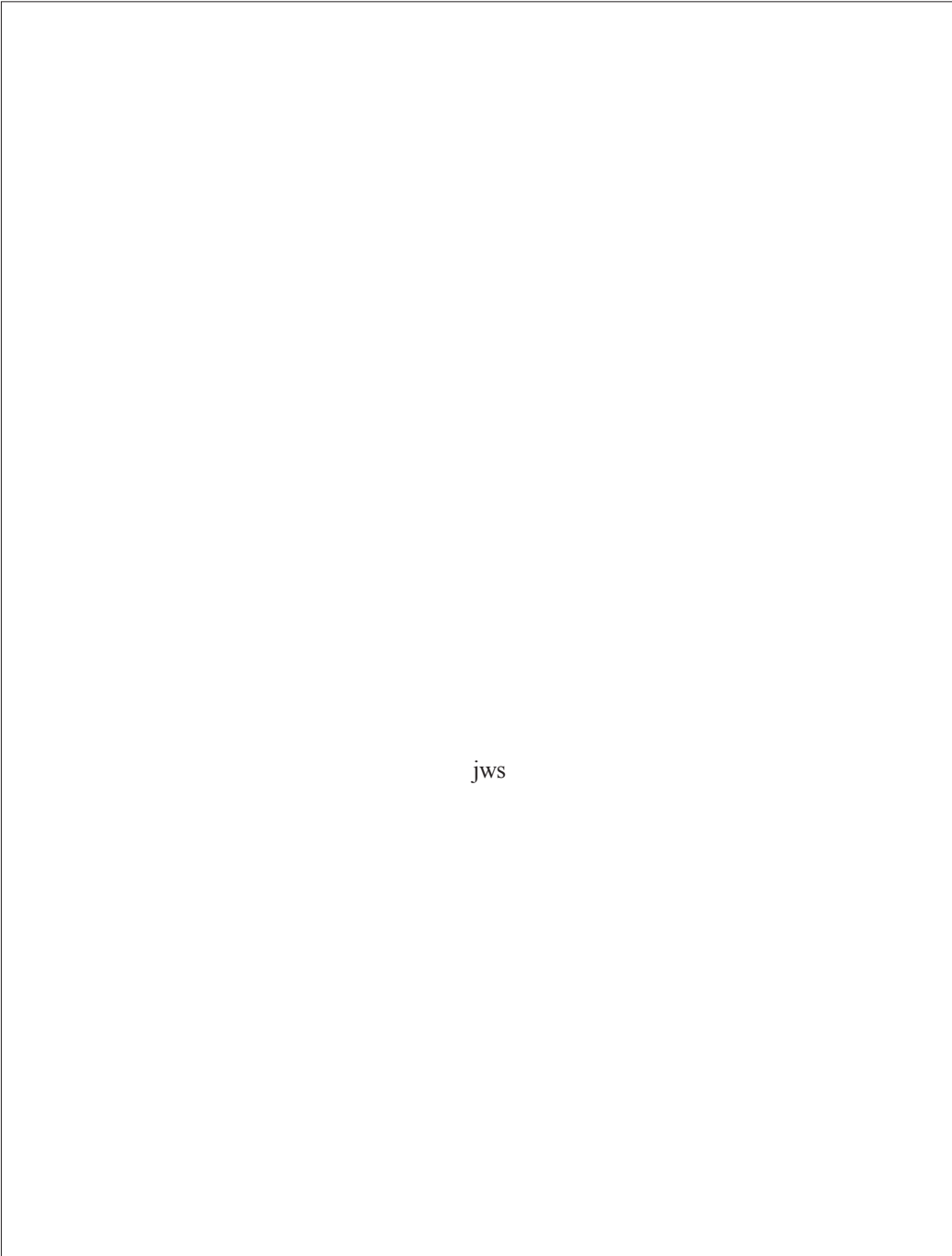
By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The CNMI is confident that it would deliver a better business presentation in the upcoming annual conference sponsored by the Department of the Interior, citing greater consultation with the private sector this time compared to last year.


"The difference is that we have this opportunity to seek consultation with the private sector. I'd say there's a greater participation from the private

See CNMI on Page 12

Local



jws



The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor.tribune@gtepacific.net. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

Car crash leaves one dead, two injured

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

An auto accident early yesterday morning proved fatal for a 21-year-old woman, while two others sustained injuries, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS acting public information officer Captain Pete C. Muna disclosed that the vehicle involved in the incident, a white Toyota Tercel, was traveling along Beach Road Susupe when it geared off the road and struck a flame tree. It was found resting against the tree on the shoulder of the southbound lane by the Susupe Regional Beach Park.

Medics were immediately dispatched to the scene and brought the three occupants of the vehicle to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment. One of the passengers, Jung Soon Lee, was pronounced dead upon arrival.

“According to the [responding] officer, there were tire marks leading from the vehicle’s resting point to the northbound lanes on the curve by the Mobil gas station,” he said.

Muna indicated that it was raining and the road was wet

during the time the responding officer arrived at the scene.

Police report indicated that upon arriving at the scene, the responding officer was approached by a woman who “told him that an ambulance was needed because there were people trapped inside the vehicle.”

Muna said the officer then approached the vehicle, shined his flashlight in the car, and saw a woman upside down in the rear seat.

“Her head was underneath the driver’s seat and her legs were lying against the rear deck board, and she was bleeding heavily around her face, nose and mouth,” he said.

The woman was later identified as 21-year-old Jon Poo Park, who sustained fractures, lacerations on her face, and head injury.

Muna said the driver of the vehicle, 25-year-old Gyu Jin Kim, “was found laying side ways on the driver’s seat, with her upper body leaning toward the center console with blood all over her face.” She sustained fractures on her ankle, fibula, hip and pelvis.

Lee, meanwhile, was found sitting side ways on the front passenger seat.

“Her head and neck were lean-

ing to the rear behind the driver’s head restraint,” Muna said. “Her eyes were open but there was no indication of her breathing. She was bleeding from her face.”

Muna said the responding

officer tried to open all the doors of the vehicle to help the victims and apply first aid, but all the doors were locked and windows were rolled up.

Further, Muna noted that after

the three women were removed from the vehicle, officers found that the floorboard beneath the driver’s section was “dented inward and upward” while the dashboard was “pushed inward.”

The incident was reported to the DPS at about 3:20am. It was the eighth auto-related fatality recorded this year, one more than the total number recorded last year.

Mobil shelves jet fuel tank project at Tinian airport

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Oil giant Mobil has shelved its jet fuel tank project at the Tinian International Airport due to the current lack of any aviation customers that would ensure business viability.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. president Jeff Borja said that the company has demonstrated its support for the project in the last two years, but said that no aviation customers have committed to purchasing fuel on Tinian.

The company issued the statement following the recent adoption of a resolution by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, which urged the oil firm to expedite the installation of the jet fuel tank.

The APIL is an association of lawmakers from 12 Pacific governments such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Republican of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Hawaii, Republic of Nauru and Republic of Kiribati.

The APIL said the project would enhance air traffic using the Tinian airport, after the Federal Aviation Administration’s certified that the Tinian runway is included in the U.S. Transportation Department list of airports

allowed to receive large aircrafts.

“Aviation customers have not committed to purchasing fuel in Tinian,” Borja said. “Since there are no aviation contracts to substantiate a business reason for Mobil to invest any further in a jet fuel tank in Tinian, Mobil will cease working on this project.”

Borja said, though, that the company would continue to consult with the government regarding the project. He said Mobil has been working with the government for nearly two years to support the CNMI’s economic growth.

Mobil earlier procured and leased equipment as it developed a temporary plan to safely provide fuel support at the Tinian airport.

“These assets have been idle at one of our facilities, awaiting completion of commercial agreements between Mobil and the intended aviation customers. Such an investment requires significant financial commitment, and to date, Mobil spent substantial dollars in shipping, leasing and procuring equipment for this project,” Borja said.

Currently, only China Southern Air’s large aircraft use the Tinian airport for chartered flights between the island and China. Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is chartering the flights.

crees

HEROES

KNIGHT

COMMUNITY Briefs

Radio licensing exams tomorrow

The next Volunteer Examiner session offered by W5YI-VE, sponsored by MDX Amateur Radio Club, would be held tomorrow, Aug. 4, from 6pm to 9pm at the ground floor of the Nauru Building Community Center.

Walk-ins will be accepted although pre-registration is encouraged. Those in the technician class, who want to be upgraded must bring an original and one photocopy of their FCC license and any applicable CSCEs.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at tel. no. 235-9150/288-2550 or e-mail at bong@malasarte.com.

Mallards to hold open house

Garapan Elementary School wishes to inform all parents that an open house will be held on Thursday, August 5, in conjunction with the first parents and teachers association meeting of the new school year.

The open house will from 5-6pm. The PTA meeting will start at 6pm in the cafeteria.

Additionally, all parents must be aware that children who received free meals last year are pre-approved to receive free meals for the first 30 days of the 2004-2005 school year.

Also as a reminder, GES hours are from 7:30am to 2:20pm. Parents are requested to please ensure that their children arrive at school between 7am and 7:30am. If he or she is not a bus rider, parents are advised to pick up their children before 3pm.

Registration open for anger management

The Community Guidance Center will begin the next session for its Anger Management Program on Aug. 18 from 1-2:30pm in the N-5 Building in Navy Hill.

The program is an ongoing eight-week session, conducted every Wednesday of the week.

Several clients are referred to the program through the court; others are volunteer participants from the community.

For more information on the program or to register call the Community Guidance Center at 323-6567. Identities of participants will be kept confidential.

Mount Carmel parent orientation meeting

Mount Carmel School's mandatory Parent Orientation Meeting is scheduled this coming Wednesday, Aug. 4, to be held at the Mount Carmel School Gym.

The meeting is for parents of students that will be attending for School Year 2004-2005. Parents are given the option of either attending the 12:00 pm meeting or the 6pm meeting.

Contact Mt. Carmel School at telephone number 235-1285 for inquiries.

SNISWCD meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their meeting on Aug. 5, 2004 at 1:30pm, at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact the office at 234-6170.

UPAA moves raffle draw date

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association CNMI Chapter has moved the June 12 fundraising raffle draw to Aug. 14, Saturday.

Those who have not yet purchased tickets are encouraged to do so. Proceeds will go to the UPAA's "Donate a Classroom Project" in the Philippines, and will help recognize and support deserving CNMI students.

The Aug. 14 raffle drawing will be held at the POLO office, 1st Floor of Nauru Building in Susupe, 6pm.

Torres offers free notarial services

Former congressman Stanley T. Torres, who is also a notary public, is offering free notarial services to all U.S. Army Reservists and their dependents.

Torres can be contacted through the offices of:

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider 664-6969
Rep. Jesus Attao 664-8822
Rep. David Apatang 664-8980
Or in an emergency 287-9255

Social Security visit to Rota postponed

The Social Security representative's visit to Rota, originally schedule for July 16, has been postponed because the Pacific Islands Aviation flight from Saipan to Rota has been cancelled. The visit will be rescheduled when reliable air service from Saipan to Rota is again available.

For more information, Rota residents can call toll free at 532-9421. The local number on Saipan is 234-6203.

OFW health screening reset

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the OFW Advisory Council is informing the Filipino community on Saipan that the Health Screening Program this July is rescheduled for August 1, 2004, 9am, at the Ground Floor of the Nauru Building.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2004									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
Manila-Manila					Manila-Manila				
00000	4:00am	4:15am	00		00000	1:00am	2:00am	00000	
00000	4:00am	4:15am	00	00000	00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00		00000	0000am	0000am	00	
00000	0000am	0000am	00						

CARS UNLIMITED

nmc



‘MADE IN THE CNMI?’
Gov. Juan N. Babauta demonstrates to reporters a CamelBak product, which a Korean investor plans to manufacture here in the CNMI for the U.S. Department of Defense. Babauta said Dong-In Entech Co., Ltd. is in the process of identifying a land that would house the multi-million dollar investment. CamelBak is a leading name in outdoor gear products, including military backpacks and hydration systems. The governor recently invited the company to meet with officials of the CNMI Department of Commerce in connection with the proposed venture.

CNMI’s HR group to discuss EEOC, Cobra

The Society for Human Resource Management has invited Timothy Riera of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Cindy Adams of the U.S. Department of Labor to speak at a special half-day meeting.

Riera will discuss current issues with Equal Employment Opportunity such as the definition of an online applicant and will provide updates on the Commission.

Adams will discuss the U.S.

Department of Labor’s final changes on the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. These changes will make it easier for employees to understand their rights under COBRA and make it easier for employers to meet their obligation notice.

Both issues being discussed will affect public and private sector employers in the CNMI.

“Join is to learn more about EEOC and COBRA and how they affect your organization,”

the group said in a statement.

The meeting will be held at the Charley’s Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club Saipan on July 29, from 8am to 1pm. The cost, including lunch is \$35 for SHRM members and \$45 for non-SHRM members.

Seating is limited; therefore members and others interested in attending this meeting should contact Shane at 234-1234 ext. 5415 or Andrea at 235-6231 ext. 5122 for reservations. *(PR)*

Tourist nearly drowns off Laulau

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

A female tourist who was diving off the shore of Laulau Beach nearly drowned Friday afternoon, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Fifty-one-year-old Tamiko Saito was reportedly with her daughter, Aki Saito, and dive instructor Hideki Morita at the site when the incident occurred.

Police report showed that the three began their dive at Laulau at about 9:49am. The dive lasted until 10:33am, after which the group decided to wait another hour before making a second dive.

According to the report, Morita said the second dive began at about 11:33am. He led them 50 feet out to show them the reef area, then head-

ed back to about 12 feet.

It was at that point that Morita instructed the victim’s daughter to clear her mask, which she successfully managed. The victim, however, had problems doing so.

“[Morita] said that she saw the victim was inhaling water while clearing her mask and she was coughing,” the report stated.

Morita then approached the victim and took her to the surface at about 12:16pm.

“[Morita] said the victim kept coughing and water was coming out from her mouth while at the surface...he escorted both of them to shore and transported the victim to [the Commonwealth Health Center] for treatment and examination,” the report added.

The report indicated that both Saito and her daughter had ear-

lier taken Open Water Scuba Diving lessons at the Nikko Hotel swimming pool and Sugar Dock beach under the instruction of Morita.

However, the victim’s daughter, Aki, told police that her mother had been experiencing difficulty in clearing her mask since the beginning of the scuba lessons and needed more time to practice the skills.

At about 6:28pm, DPS Boating Safety Section dispatched officers to the CHC to check on the incident.

Investigation revealed that the victim was diagnosed with fluid in her lungs and was admitted for observation and treatment by Dr. Francois Classens.

The victim and her family arrived on July 14 and are expected to go home on July 19.

Tongan policeman found not guilty of obstructing justice

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga, PIR)—A former Tongan police officer was cleared of charges that he interfered with the course of justice and of bribery connected to marijuana case evidence.

A jury of five women and two men dismissed the charges against Viliami Toki (35) in the Nuku’alofa Supreme Court on 14 July.

It was charged that on January 31, 2002 he interfered with the course of justice when he tried to persuade Police Officer ‘Unga Fa’ao to destroy the criminal case file of a woman Leiola Fifita. At that time Leiola was awaiting trial on the charge

of the possession of marijuana.

Toki was also charged that on the same day he offered to pay money to Police Officer ‘Unga Fa’ao, in consideration for him to destroy the exhibits and criminal case file of Leiola Fifita.

Counsel for the defendant, Masao Paasi in his final submission argued that there was no proof that his client interfered with the course of justice. He pointed out that Leiola Fifita had subsequently appeared in court and was found guilty, and with regards

to the charge for bribery Masao said that there was no proof of any money being paid. He also queried why the police were not very active in their pursuit to investigate the person whom it was claimed that Toki had told Police officer ‘Unga Fa’ao was willing to pay the bribery.

After a three-days trial the jury took about ten minutes to pass their decision of not guilty.

The hearing was presided over by Chief Justice Ford and the legal counsel for the Crown was ‘Aminiasi Kefu.

PNG aviation strike averted

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, PIR)—The Government last night averted a crippling civil aviation strike at the 11th hour.

At about 9:30 p.m. yesterday, Civil Aviation Minister Don Polye signed a guarantee to spend K1.9 million to settle the outstanding union claims.

The unions agreed to the Minister’s guarantee and called off the proposed four-day strike action, which was to have begun at midnight.

The unions had planned to stay away from work until Monday to protest against the Civil Aviation Authority management’s failure to pay outstanding airfares for retrenched and non-retrenched officers and back payments for the pay period 1 to 12 of this year, a 5 percent salary increase for this year and performance-based salary increments.

About 200 CAA workers earlier in the day had agreed to walk off their jobs at midnight after a meeting in Port Moresby.

This would have resulted in the shutdown of vital aviation safety services nationwide offered by

the air traffic control and flight, technical and airport rescue and fire fighting divisions.

Flights by domestic airline operators, including flag carrier Air Niugini and Papua New Guinea’s largest third level airline operator PNG Airlines, would have been adversely affected.

Only international airlines flying over upper Papua New Guinean airspace and overseas-bound medivac services during the strike-period would have been spared.

Earlier in the day, PNG Airlines chief executive Simon Wild in an email to the Post-Courier said his company had contingency plans in place and would strive to maintain current operations.

“We will assess the situation tomorrow morning (this morning) and as events develop so as to ensure minimal disruption to our customers,” he said.

Air Niugini chief executive Rod Nelson was reportedly at a series of frenetic meetings late last night to map out its response in the event the strike would have eventuated.

calvary book
sale

rms



OVERTIME CHANGES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Richard L. Hamilton and Louis F. Cabuhat of the U.S. Department of Labor explain to members of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association changes in the Wage and Hour regulations during a two-hour training at the SGMA offices.

APIL meets on Guam for general assembly

GUAM (PDN/PIR)—The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is holding its 23rd general assembly on Guam this week.

The members of the association are the legislative assemblies of American Samoa; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia’s Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap states; the Marshall Islands; Palau; Kiribati; Nauru; Hawaii; and host Guam, the association announced.

The last APIL general assembly held on Guam was in 1999.

The theme for this year’s general assembly is “Environment and Cultural Tourism: Bridging the Islands.”

After opening ceremonies on Sunday, speakers scheduled yesterday included:

- John Salas, University of Guam associate professor of international tourism, who talked about tourism markets of Micronesia.
- Guam Visitors Bureau General Manager Tony Lamorena on eco-tourism and eco-cultural issues
- Dennis Gonsalves, director, of the U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii, who talked about an emerging research force to help agriculture in Hawaii and the Pacific islands.

The generally assembly takes place at the Guam Legislature through today.

name the mall

Samoan village wants compensation for loud and dirty power generator

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer, PIR)—Tanugamanono village has sought redress from the Electric Power Corporation (EPC) over excessive noise pollution and gaseous fumes from the power station located there.

The village recently complained that “ear-splitting noise” from the station’s generators has become a health hazard to those living nearby.

They said that some have been diagnosed with ear problems and recurring migraines. Loud noise, they said, also disrupts daily life and especially children’s schoolwork.

Black fumes belched out by the four large generators when it is turned on at night, they said, made people nauseous.

According to village mayor Anauli Pofitu, the village council has met with EPC general manager Muaausa Joseph Walters and senior management staff.

“The village has requested that they be provided with some monetary compensation,” Anauli said.

“We have also asked EPC for concessionary benefits such as free electricity for the whole village.”

Anauli said that they were told by EPC to give them two weeks to discuss the matter at the board level.

That decision is expected this week, he said.

Anauli revealed that EPC offered to buy all the land that was bordering the station.

“But we turned it down as all that land is customary owned and belong to the Sa Atoa family of Tanugamanono.

“The land they were asking for amounted to half the village.”

Anauli said that EPC had requested they be given time to ‘think through’ the request as any special deal might upset other villages where power stations are located.

“This power station was built in 1966 and our people have been suffering for a long time with the loud noise and fumes that it emits.”

“Nearly 40 years and much longer than any power station built in any village.”

“The problem has been raised several times in the past decade.”

A handful of families neighboring the station had been at the forefront of the issue, Anauli said.

“But now the matter has been taken up at the village level following a request by these families.”

Vanuatu election results released

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia, PIR)—The final results in Vanuatu’s snap general election has been announced.

It’s taken nine days to count and check all the ballots, and the country still doesn’t know what the new government will look like.

There’s been a big turnover of MPs, with 25 of those elected to the 52-seat parliament being new faces. Turnout was mixed, with the Paama constituency reporting 90 percent of registered voters casting their vote, but only 41 percent did so on Pentecost.

No single party commands an obvious lead, with the previous coalition of the largely English speaking Vanua’aku and National United Parties, plus the Greens, with 21 seats, and the Francophone Union of Moderate Parties with 8. But all the major parties are fractionalized, and both VP/NUP and the UMP are reportedly claiming they have enough support to form a government.

Business

WTO treaty talks come down to the wire

By NAOMI KOPPEL
AP WRITER

GENEVA (AP)—Government ministers from around the globe gather this week at the World Trade Organization for an 11th-hour attempt at a treaty they hope will provide a massive boost to the world economy.

They face huge differences of opinion, however, especially in the key area of agriculture, where rich and poor nations have vastly different agendas and exporters and importers have conflicting priorities.

"At a time when projectionist pressures lie just below the surface, when people across the world are demanding change, the 147 member governments of the WTO must deliver," said WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi.

Negotiators were meeting privately night and day to try to find an agree-

ment before the July 31 deadline. Formal meetings start Tuesday.

The framework should have been completed last September at a ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, which collapsed without agreement. Negotiators then planned to do it by Christmas—but that deadline came and went.

If negotiators fail to reach a deal by the end of July, they realize the U.S. presidential election and government changes in other countries will leave them paralyzed until at least next year.

The treaty framework will form the structure of continued negotiations in the current "round" of trade talks. Though it is only part of the process, many believe this agreement is the crucial one and that the rest of the talks will be much smoother.

Along with Shotaro Oshima—the Japanese ambassador who heads the WTO's ruling General Coun-

cil—Supachai on July 16 produced a 15-page proposal on the structure of a future treaty.

On the key issue of agriculture, the document sets out a system ensuring that high import tariffs are cut by a larger percentage than low ones—a key demand of many agricultural exporters.

However, it also leaves room for nations to make smaller cuts on products they consider "sensitive"—often, products that are important in their domestic farming industry.

The document is short on details, saying simply that the exact formula to be used "remains under negotiation."

The proposal says all agricultural export subsidies will be eliminated by a date "to be agreed," a concession made by the European Union, which had originally refused to accept total elimination of the payments.

At the same time, the United States, Canada and others must get rid of their

own programs of support for agricultural exporters, it says.

The proposal was mostly welcomed, but some countries—notably a group of importers led by Switzerland and Japan—still say they have big problems with the text. They submitted a set of amendments, but those likely will be unacceptable to other WTO members.

The British development charity Oxfam also attacked the proposal, saying it had been subject to "considerable rich-country influence" and did not sufficiently consider the demands of poorer nations.

"Developing countries are being put in the untenable position of having to choose either to agree to a watered-down framework or accept the blame for the collapse of the talks," said Oxfam spokeswoman Celine Charveriat.

EU member France also has criticized the proposal and accused EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy

of giving too much ground over export subsidies.

One major breakthrough in recent days came when a group of African countries dropped their demands for separate negotiations on eliminating rich countries' subsidies on cotton they claim are destroying the livelihoods of African farmers.

They said they would agree to talk about cotton within the overall agricultural talks but only if specific deadlines are set for removing subsidies.

Other areas to be covered in the treaty include cutting barriers to trade in manufactured goods and service industries like telecommunications and banking, and harmonizing and simplifying customs procedures.

All WTO members agree in principle that cutting barriers to international trade, including import taxes and government subsidies, is good for the world economy.

Gas prices dip as refinery projects end

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—Gas prices dropped slightly in the past two weeks as refineries finished projects that temporarily caused a dip in production, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The weighted national average price for all three grades of gasoline fell a little less than a penny between July 9 and Friday to \$1.95 per gallon, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey. The

survey polls nearly 8,000 gas stations across the United States.

That represents a drop of 15.4 cents per gallon since May 21, when the average price was slightly above \$2.10 a gallon.

The biggest seller in the two-week period was self-serve regular, which averaged \$1.92 per gallon. Mid-grade gasoline averaged \$2.02 per gallon, while premium averaged \$2.11 per gallon.

Lundberg said refineries had finished

several projects designed to maximize output for summer travel, leading to the drop in prices. She said an increase in crude oil prices prevented prices from falling even further.

The lowest average price for a gallon of self-serve regular was \$1.74, in Tulsa, Okla. The highest average price for self-serve regular was in Honolulu, where consumers are paying \$2.25 per gallon.



RAV4 rates high with optional air bags

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 2004 Toyota RAV4 got the highest ratings on both front and side crash tests performed by the insurance industry, but only when tested with its optional side air bags, according to crash test results released Sunday.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said the RAV4 was the first vehicle to earn its "best pick" designation for both front and side tests. The institute began performing side-impact crash tests last year.

When tested without its side-impact air bags, however, the RAV4 received the institute's lowest rating of poor in the side test.

Adrian Lund, chief operating officer of the Insurance Institute, said he hoped the results would encourage Toyota

and other manufacturers to make head-protecting side air bags standard.

Toyota spokeswoman Martha Voss said she did not know whether the company would make air bags standard on the RAV4. It now costs \$680 for the option, which includes a head-protecting air bag that deploys from the ceiling and a side-protecting air bag that deploys from the seat.

The Insurance Institute tests the performance of vehicles in a 31-mph side crash. Lund said the 2003 RAV4, which did not offer optional side air bags, had poor structure and failed to protect the crash dummy's head. Toyota strengthened the structure of the 2004 RAV4 along with adding the side air bags option.

Lund stressed that head-protecting air bags can reduce by 45 percent

chances of serious injury in a crash, while side air bags, designed to protect the chest and abdomen, reduce chances of injury by only 10 percent.

Toyota also made structural improvements to the front of the RAV4 which helped the vehicle withstand the institute's 40-mph frontal crash test, Lund said.

The 2004 RAV4 got the highest side-impact safety rating from the government even though it was tested without its air bags. Institute spokesman Russ Rader said the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration uses a barrier that represents a car, while the institute's barrier represents a sport utility vehicle. He said NHTSA also doesn't include the amount of head injury in its calculations.

Some doubt American Airlines' strength

By DAVID KOENIG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—After staving off bankruptcy a year ago, American Airlines slashed costs below many of its competitors and its executives talked brightly about returning the largest U.S. carrier to its former glory.

Analysts praised American, which eked out a tiny profit from April to June—only its second winning quarter in three years of crushing losses. Investors bid the stock price up for a time.

Now, however, fresh doubts emerge about American's ability to regain its strength against the tide of high fuel prices, which have wiped out hope that the carrier might earn a profit this year, and an onslaught of competitors pushing low fares even lower.

More ominously, there is scant evidence that American, a unit of Fort Worth-based AMR Corp., has figured out how to win customers away from other carriers and boost revenue. American now faces competition from low-cost rivals on nearly 90 percent of its routes, frustrating the company's plans to raise fares.

And, some employees are growing restless a year after taking huge pay cuts that helped save the airline.

Flight attendants pepper Internet chat rooms with complaints about being overworked because thousands of colleagues have been laid off. Attendants on long international flights said they were denied meal and rest breaks because crews were understaffed. They filed a complaint through the union, and an arbitrator ruled in their favor—awarding back pay of \$9 million to \$14 million, which the airline must pay in October.

Phillip Baggaley, an analyst with Standard & Poor's, says the pace of American's recovery "is disappointing and may be stalling out."

Just a year ago, American was at the breaking point after more than \$6 billion in losses caused by the reces-

sion, the terror attacks of September 2001, tougher competition from low-cost carriers, and fundamental changes in the way that people buy airline tickets.

The company was on the brink of filing for bankruptcy protection until union employees barely approved a package of painful concessions, including layoffs and double-digit pay cuts that saved American \$1.8 billion a year.

With those cuts, the company reduced spending on wages, salaries and benefits by 16 percent through the first six months of 2004.

In early 2003, American had the second highest cost structure in the U.S. airline industry. One year later, American's cost structure was the lowest of the six so-called legacy carriers, the others being United, Delta, Continental, Northwest and US Airways.

American is still not lean compared to low-cost carriers. Southwest Airlines' cost structure is 15 percent lower than American's; JetBlue's is 38 percent lower.

The savings helped AMR cut its first-quarter loss to \$166 million from the \$1 billion loss a year earlier, and to post a \$6 million profit in April-June period. Analysts expect another small profit in the current quarter, which ends Sept. 30.

"American is off the critical list," says CEO Gerard Arpey, who sometimes lugs a small, rectangular sheet of metal with holes in it to employee rallies and meetings with Wall Street analysts to prove that American is committed to cutting bloated costs.

The grill provides the foundation for airplane seats. Until recently, American bought the supports for about \$1,000 apiece. Now, employees make them for \$157.

Fourteen-dollar Italian blankets offered to customers during flights were replaced with \$8 throws from China, and American saved \$600,000 on silverware by buying plastic utensils in an Internet auction.

Opinion

CNM'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIV, Issue No. 146

Published daily at 2/F Century Insurance Building,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Scholarships for high school graduates available

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

The CNMI District Office of the Washington Representative to the U.S. announced yesterday that applications for the Col. Joel A. Carroll, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund are currently available.

The scholarship program, set up by Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio and

the Carroll family in honor of Col. Joel A. Carroll Jr., awards financial incentives to CNMI high school graduates, who have been accepted by a university or college. The scholarships are intended for first-time college bound students.

This year, the fund is offering 10 scholarships totaling \$5,000, with each recipient receiving a one-time \$500 scholarship. All applicants are required

to be U.S. citizens or nationals.

"Preference will be given to those who will be pursuing studies in health, science, or engineering," the office said.

All interested must submit a completed application package by Sept. 30, 2004 to be considered for the 2004-2005 school year. Review of applicants and notice of awards will be made in early October of this year.

The fund was established on July of last year, in honor of Col. Joel A. Carroll, Jr., a veteran of the U.S. Air Force who passed away last year at the age of 86. The statement indicated that Carroll Jr. was a friend of Tenorio who sponsored him during his high school years in Guam.

Aside from Tenorio, founders of the fund include Carroll's wife Norma, son Joel A. Carroll III, daughter Marsha C.

Henderson, and Dr. Joaquin A. Tenorio—brother of Pete A. Tenorio—and his son Dean O. Tenorio.

Last year, the fund awarded scholarships to six students.

Application forms and instructions are available at the CNMI District Office of the Washington Representative to the U.S. at Capitol Hill. For more information, contact Ana S. Teregyo at 664-5651/52.

Japanese officials call on Benavente

A delegation of Japanese government officials, led by assembly member and goodwill ambassador for the CNMI Hamasaki Yoshihiro, yesterday paid a courtesy call on acting governor Diego T. Benavente.

The visit of Yoshihiro, a member of assembly from the Tottori Prefecture, was meant primarily to promote a sister-city relationship between the two places.

"They are just visiting the CNMI. They

are excited for opportunities between the two destinations. It's an informal meeting—some discussion about some areas of cooperation," Benavente said.

Yoshihiro was accompanied by two other officials including the director of international affairs of Tottori, Toshio Yashimoto, who represented the prefecture's governor.

Yesterday's visit was said to be Yoshihiro's 25th visit to the CNMI.

"He's been visiting Saipan the past

32 years," said public information officer Peter Callaghan.

Yoshihiro was named CNMI Honorary Tourism Ambassador in May 2003 for his "unselfish support and commitment to the islands' tourism industry."

Yoshihiro is recognized for bringing in various tour groups to the CNMI in the past three decades.

Tottori is a small city located southwest of Japan. (*Liberty Dones*)

CAPE

From Page 1

looking at that," Wolf said.

Tinian, Yap, and Palau are some of the islands that both airline companies are considering for the expansion plan, he added.

Wolf said Cape Air currently has eight pilots stationed in the Marianas—plus the regional administrator, who is a qualified pilot. But he added that the airline could double the number in the next year or so, depending on market demand.

Wally Dias, Continental Micronesia staff vice president for sales and marketing, echoed Wolf's statement on the planned expansion. He reported that the airline companies are now studying if they can utilize Cessna 402 aircraft earlier used for Continental Connection's Guam-Rota flights for other markets in the region.

The commuter service between Guam and Rota began on July 1. Starting last Sunday, Cape Air will use 46-seat ATR-42 aircraft for the Guam-Rota-Saipan flights.

More flights, lower fares

With the new service, Continental Connection now has up to seven flights between the three islands, including two

flights between Guam and Saipan serviced by Boeing 737-800 jet aircraft.

"We're trying to augment service because with our old schedule, if you recall, it was very inconvenient for business people to travel back and forth between Guam and Saipan. But we couldn't put another flight into the market because we operated only [Boeing 737s], which are too big and hard to fill up given the amount of people that are [using the service]," Dias said.

He added, "So bringing out the new ATR aircraft, that has 46 seats, it is very easy for us to add more seats and provide more frequent flights. We believe that adding more frequencies will create more demand because it makes it more convenient to go back and forth."

Further, Continental Connection has reduced fares by as much as 38 percent. The current round-trip airfare from Guam to Saipan or Rota is as low as \$106 per passenger. The airline has also eliminated three-day advance purchase fares, allowing customers to buy tickets a day before departure.

Dias said airfares are 100 percent refundable, and carry no other restrictions.

"In addition, we've restructured our airfare so that the next lowest fare for the market will be a \$140 roundtrip

between Saipan and Guam. That will be a much more affordable airfare than what we've previously had in the market place," he said.

Although this introductory price offer will be effective only until Sept. 30, Wolf vowed that Continental Connection would do its best to maintain the low fare and provide discounts and incentives for frequent travelers.

"We're going to be working on things like frequent flyer books, so that people who really use the service a lot can take advantage of some discounts as well," Wolf said.

Passenger comfort

Dias also assured passengers of better services and more comfort when they avail of Continental Connection's new service.

Aside from providing more seats, the ATR-42 aircraft servicing the new flights have a pressurized cabin and a lavatory on board.

"It is also a little bit bigger than the normal commuter aircraft that fly between the islands because we're actually able to put in regular Continental coach seats in the aircraft. It's somewhat like the seats that you're familiar with on some of the jet service," Dias said.

efficiently performing his or her duties, or otherwise not complying with MPLA's rules and regulations.

That memorandum was signed by Manny Villagomez, Pedro J. Igitol and Pedro M. Atalig.

Villagomez, however, insisted in a July 9 memo to Demapan-Castro that he does not agree with her decision, saying she does not have the authority to alone do what the full board of MPLA is required to do.

As for Hofschneider leaving the meeting, Villagomez said the meeting was not even an MPLA meeting but one with the land compensation working group. He said Hofschneider had asked his permission to be excused from the upcoming board meeting as he had a headache.

This was concurred in by board member, Nicolas Nekai, who said Hofschneider had also asked his permission to leave before the board meeting.

a strikethrough and above it was typed \$134,695.91. The documents showed that CDA executive director Maria Lourdes S. Ada altered the amount listed on the requisition.

"Any alteration without the board's approval is grounds for disciplinary action," Demapan-Castro said in the suspension order.

Demapan-Castro also cited as an act of insubordination, Hofschneider's "abrupt departure" from an MPLA meeting last July 2 and his failure to return.

"While issues were being discussed, you got up from your chair, slammed the door, and left the room. I tried to speak to you, but you refused to listen," she said in the memorandum.

Demapan-Castro based her authority on a July 30 memo where the MPLA board members granted her full authority to terminate for cause, if necessary, any employee of the MPLA who, in the discretion of the chairperson, is not

HOFSCHEIDER

From Page 1

Hofschneider, Demapan-Castro said she would ask the AGO to further investigate the commissioner's actions regarding a document requisition, which he had allegedly allowed the Commonwealth Development Authority to alter without the board's approval and consent.

The document requisition is related to the transfer of MPLA funds at the Bank of Guam to pay for land compensation claims. Hofschneider allegedly allowed the CDA to alter the amount of funds being transferred from \$216,322 to \$134,695.91 without specific information as to whom the revised drawdown amount is intended to compensate.

In the schedule of requisition request prepared by Hofschneider and MPLA comptroller David Demapan, the amount of \$216,322 was altered with

CNMI

From Page 1

sector. We hope it's better this year," said the governor's special assistant for special projects, Galvin Guerrero.

He said the administration has been actively working with concerned industry representatives and the Office of the Insular Affairs in preparing for the Sept. 23-24, 2004 business conference to be held in Los Angeles.

Based on the conference website: www.businessopportunitiesconference.com, this year's topics include travel and tourism, ocean resources, infrastructure, fisheries, education, high technology, and more.

The DOI said the conference aims to provide "win-win opportunities for the mainland and the islands."

It boasts of conference speakers that include governors of the territories and presidents of island nations, high-level federal representatives of business, trade, and export businesses, and "successful business people from across the U.S. and the islands."

"We invite you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet business and government leaders from the islands and the mainland U.S., and learn about the myriad of business opportunities available in each island area," DOI said.

Last year, it said the conference attracted over 500 participants from 33 states and territories and six foreign nations.

This year, it expects to host over 600 participants from diverse business sectors in the islands and the 50 states.

COMMONWEALTH

From Page 1

travel in the Marianas.

Salas, for his part, said he is excited about the new flights, which he described as "a move to provide better service to the people." He said the increased flights could even result in lower airport fees, if the competing airlines are able to attract more passengers through reduced airfares.

In a separate ceremony on Rota, Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona said the added capacity to what is already being provided by Freedom Air and Pacific Island Aviation is a welcome service for Rota, especially for travelers and travel agents that need to meet international flight schedules.

"[This new service] is an important step towards providing greater capacity for dependable and reliable air transportation services that will link communities from around the world to our pristine island," he said.

He also expressed optimism that Rota's tourism industry would benefit from Cape Air and Continental Mi-

The DOI changed the conference this year—from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles—in efforts to gather more investors with established business ties in the region.

Further, Freely Associated States like the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia will attend this year's conference, for the first time.

During the Sept. 2003 investment conference in Washington D.C., only the CNMI, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa participated.

DOI has cited that investors can look forward to more activities in these islands given the availability of federal funds in the next several years.

It cited contracting opportunities arising from the \$3.5 billion that will be made available to the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia over the next 20 years for health, education, environmental protection and other infrastructure development.

The CNMI, for instance, receives millions of dollars out of the \$30 million Compact Impact annual appropriation beginning this year and every year over the next 20 years.

"You will meet governors of the territories, the presidents of the Freely Associated States, representatives of several Chambers of Commerce, and officials from federal trade and development agencies. Through them, you will learn about the tools that are at your disposal to grow your business upward and outward to the Caribbean and the Pacific," said the department.

The annual project is a project of DOI Secretary Gale Norton.

cronesia's wide range of experience in marketing and airline safety, and connection to international tour agencies.

Furthermore, Manglona encouraged the two other airlines servicing the Guam-Rota-Saipan route to "double [their] effort" in providing excellent customer service to the commuters.

"Our people also recognize and appreciate your perseverance and may your untiring dedication and commitment be a benchmark for all airlines. The people of Rota want all of you here to stay," he said.

To Continental and Cape Air, Manglona posed the challenge of providing greater hauling capacity and greater opportunities for the island's farmers, food processors and manufacturers to export their goods.

In addition, the mayor urged Continental Connection and its two competitors to seriously consider a more affordable airfare, especially for patients given medical referral, military dependents, students and senior citizens.

"Rota has the highest fare in the world by mileage. We need a more affordable service," he said.

Business

Asia



World

tribune graduation ad

Overdrive

T

joeten motors truck
cmyk

Life & Style

Readers worldwide continue to follow Thoreau into the woods

By STEVE GRANT
THE HARTFORD COURANT

It took five years to sell out the first printing of 2,000 copies. For students told to read it, "it can be a tough sell," one scholar says. And any number of readers, angry with the author's perceived preachiness, toss the book away half-read.

And yet "Walden," by Henry David Thoreau, is a universally acknowledged classic of American literature with yearly sales that most American authors today would bleed for.

"Walden," celebrating its sesquicentennial this summer, is doing just fine. Indeed, it is a far bigger bookstore blockbuster today than when it was first published on Aug. 9, 1854—150 years ago.

For every one of those readers who scorn the book, it seems, there are countless others who regard it as the great guide to a life lived well, if not a virtual bible.

"Walden," of course, is Thoreau's iconoclastic account of his 26 months living beside Walden Pond in Concord, Mass., beginning in July 1845, in a small cabin he built himself, a mile from any neighbor.

In scholarly circles, the "Walden" sesquicentennial has been an event for months. The Thoreau Society during July built its annual meeting in Concord around the book, includ-

ing a tag-team public reading of the entire text. Many bookstores and libraries around the country are holding special readings or "Walden"-related events.

In the pantheon of American literature, "Walden" competes with enduring titans such as "Moby-Dick" or "Leaves of Grass." But, outdoing many other classics, "Walden" has been translated into scores of foreign languages—and, in its many editions, is thought to sell in the six figures every year.

It doesn't hurt that "Walden" is chockablock with catchy quotes that show up on calendars and chapter headings all the time, all the better to keep its embers aglow. For example:

"The mass of men live lives of quiet desperation."

"Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes."

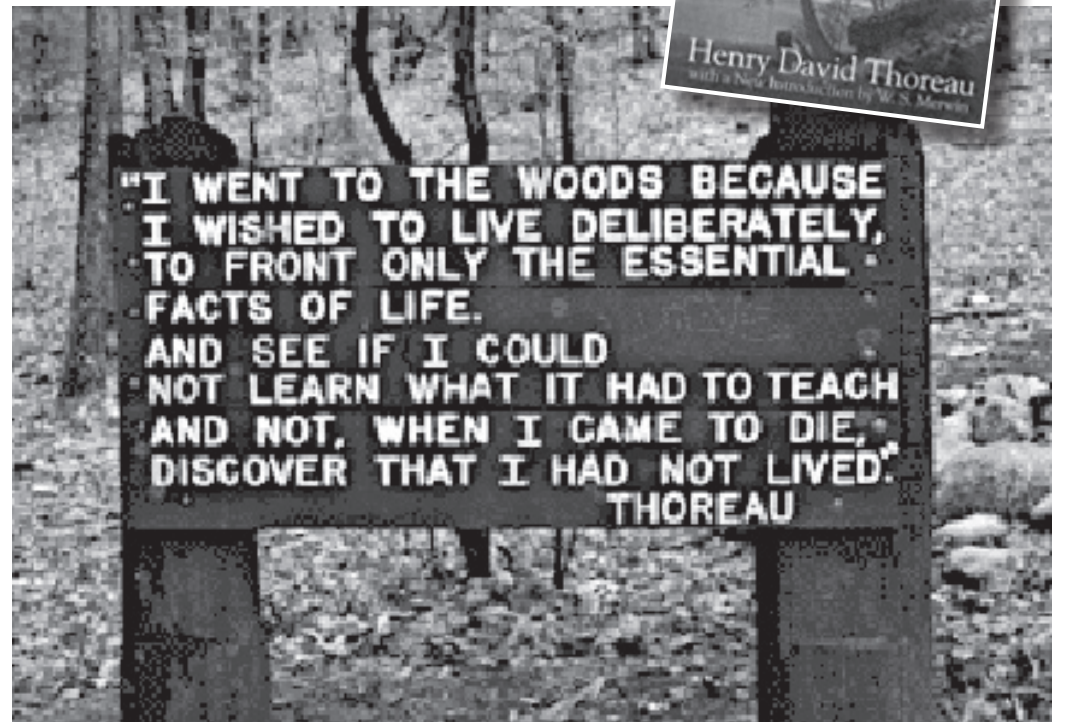
"Simplicity, Simplicity, Simplicity."

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

You've seen them.

But "Walden" is much more. Its deepest appeal, scholars say, is its insistence that the reader ponder his or her life and ask whether it is the life the reader actually wants to live.

"Walden is a book that challenges us to think about how we live our lives," said Joel



Myerson, distinguished professor emeritus at the University of South Carolina. "And it is a book that challenges us at any time or any generation because the questions are as relevant today as they were 150 years ago."

What is life about anyway? "Is it to accumulate money, or is it to accumulate a more inner spiritual wealth? These and many other questions are what Thoreau addresses," Myerson said.

Thoreau loved paradox and used it well to raise those questions. In "Walden," for example, when writing of train travel, he says "the swiftest traveler is he that goes afoot." The reader then learns that Thoreau has added up the hours of work it takes to pay the fare to a village 30 miles away and determined that he could walk there in less time without ever having done a lick of work.

The point is not that the reader shouldn't take the train but rather that the reader ought to consider whether that train trip, and what it takes to make that train trip, is really in keeping with what matters in life.

"I don't think he would have refused to fly on a plane and all the things you hear people say," said Sandra H. Petrulionis, associate professor of English at Pennsylvania State University and a Thoreau authority. "But he would have forced us to examine the basis of those choices. How do we live simply in a world that has become so complicated (that) most of us don't have time to sit down and have dinner with our families five nights a week? What kind of cars do we drive? How much money do we need, versus how much we want?"

Petrulionis said some students find Thoreau arrogant or aggravating but concede that he makes them think. "You are not supposed to be happy when you read this," she said of "Walden." "You are supposed to be darned uncomfortable."

Thoreau's first book, "A Week on the Concord and the Merrimack," was a commercial dud, and even today, while it, like practically everything he wrote, is always in print, it is dwarfed by the popularity of "Walden."

"Walden" itself took off slowly. When the first printing finally sold out in 1859, the book went out of print.

"If you were reading a newspaper in 1854, you would never have pegged this book as lasting more than six months," Myerson said.

But "Walden" returned to print again in

1862, and, according to Houghton Mifflin, the successor firm to Thoreau's original publisher, Ticknor and Fields, the book has never been out of print since.

In fact, it is hard to keep track of how many editions in English are on the market at any given time, some in paperback, some in hardcover, some annotated, some illustrated, some inexpensive, some precious. Several new editions appeared just this year. And then there are all the foreign editions.

"Walden" is arguably the most translated work of American literature in terms of the number of editions in foreign languages and the number of languages in which it has been translated," Myerson said. "The Thoreau Society collections have literally hundreds of foreign-language editions of Thoreau's writings."

At the society's annual meeting this month, scholars from abroad arrived with, and donated to the society, another two dozen or more new foreign-language editions, Myerson said. One Japanese scholar said there were 13 Japanese translations of "Walden."

Elizabeth Hall Witherell of Northern Illinois University, editor in chief of The Writings of Henry David Thoreau, a multivolume scholarly series published by Princeton University Press, said the "Walden" edition in that series sells about 6,000 copies a year, and she estimates there are something like 75 other editions available.

Part of its universal appeal, perhaps, is that "Walden" can be read on many levels. It can be read as the account of an extended experience in nature, or it can be read as satire on 19th-century life, and both of those readings are supported by the text.

But it is "Walden" as philosophy, "Walden" as one of the great self-help books, "Walden" as a spiritual message, that is "Walden" at its most powerful.

"He asks you not to be happy with the way things are. That is always very unsettling and disturbing," said Wes Mott, a professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a former board member of the Thoreau Society.

"It is a radical book in the most fundamental sense," Mott said, "not because it tells you (you) must do this or you must not do that, but because it asks you to balance out these competing forces to have a whole life."

Who knows, it just may be that "Walden" is the intellectual origin of today's vernacular imperative: "Get a Life."

Princess Diana Memorial Fountain runs dry

By JANE WARDELL
AP WRITER

LONDON (AP)—It was meant to be the perfect tribute to the “people’s princess”—a pool of water designed for children to frolic in, rather than a stark stone obelisk to be stared at. But bad luck and apparent poor planning have thwarted the hopes behind the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in London’s Hyde Park.

On Sunday, the circular moat lay drained of water behind a 7-foot-high link fence to keep people out.

“It’s disappointing. We came to the park specially to see it, and it’s just a dry stone circle,” said Australian tourist Ruth Petersen, 26.

The \$6.5 million fountain, opened in a grand ceremony by Queen Elizabeth II less than a month ago, was closed indefinitely after three people, including a child, slipped and injured themselves while wading in it.

Environmental experts blamed the designers, claiming it should have been obvious that a granite moat combined with flowing fresh water would be a breeding ground for slippery algae.

Culture Minister Tessa Jowell criticized some of the visitors to the memorial for dropping litter, including diapers, into the fountain and allowing their dogs into the water.

Jowell said that the Royal



Bethany Lucas, left, 10, and her friend Rebecca McConnell splash through the waters after the opening of the fountain built in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, in London’s Hyde Park in this July 6, 2004, file photo.

Parks agency, which manages Hyde Park, is working to rectify the problems but that future visitors will have to play their part.

“People have got to be responsible in the way they let their children play in the fountain,” she told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

“The critical issue is that this is a memorial. I don’t think any responsible member of the public would want to see people allowing their dogs in it,” she added.

The ring of water, designed by American Kathryn Gustafson, was chosen ahead of 57 other entries as the permanent memorial for Diana in the capital.

Gustafson said her design reflected aspects of the personality of Diana, the “people’s princess” known for her love of children who died in a 1997 Paris car crash.

But the construction of the 700-ton fountain, in which water flows from the highest point down both sides into a

basin called the Tranquil Pool, was dogged by controversy and bureaucratic wrangling from the start.

The eight-member committee choosing the memorial was deadlocked between Gustafson’s design and a dramatic red fountain by Bombay-born British artist Anish Kapoor.

The government stepped in to provide the casting vote—and about \$1 million of extra money when the privately funded project ran over budget.

Diana’s mother, the late Frances Shand Kydd, was unimpressed. In 2002, she criticized plans for the memorial for a “lack of grandeur.”

When the fountain opened on July 6, other critics branded it a storm drain, a prophecy that came true a day later when high winds and heavy rain hit the capital.

The fountain became blocked with leaves and overflowed onto the surrounding lawn. It was closed for a few days for a clean up, and Royal Parks assigned extra people to continually clear the fountain of debris.

Its reopening was short-lived. Royal Parks shut off the water again on July 22 after three people slipped, including a

child who suffered a bump on the head and some bleeding.

Workmen have now roughened the texture of the stones to improve the grip and Royal Parks intends to carry out weekly cleaning with high pressure water jets.

Royal Parks said the fountain will remain closed until independent health and safety experts give their approval.

Diana’s brother Charles Spencer told the British Broadcasting Corp. that he hopes a balance will be found between keeping the fountain accessible to the public and treating it with respect.

“I think the whole essence of Diana was her approachability and, somehow, these two things have to be balanced,” he said.

Bogus Clinton book on sale in China

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP WRITER

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Alfred A. Knopf, publishers of Bill Clinton’s best-selling “My Life,” say they haven’t yet sold the Chinese-language rights to China. So China’s copyright thieves have struck again, concocting their own versions.

One 438-page paperback version called “Wode Shenghuo” (“My Life”) sells for 10 yuan (\$1.20) at a temple book fair and carries the former president’s photo on the cover, just like the 957-page original. But it’s not the same photo.

The copyright information incorrectly lists the original publisher as Simon & Schuster.

Oops. Simon & Schuster published Hillary Rodham Clinton’s “Living History,” not her husband’s book.

The book lists “Clinton, HR” as the author, and just about all of it is lifted verbatim from the Chinese-language version of her memoir.

Piracy of books, movies, music and software is rampant in China, despite vows by Beijing to crack down. International trade groups estimate that theft of copyrights and patents costs Western companies \$16 billion a year in sales.

“There’s sort of a habit devel-



A Chinese man holds up two books claiming to be the Chinese version of former U.S. President Bill Clinton’s memoir, “My Life,” bought from street side stalls in Beijing, China, Thursday, July 29, 2004.

oped here that anything ... in the print media, is essentially in the public domain and allowed to be ‘borrowed,’ if you will,” said Charles M. Martin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

An explosion in the variety and range of translated books makes it difficult, sometimes, to tell real from fake. Bookstores and kiosks carry numerous versions of many dozens of biographies and memoirs of famous celebrities, from Charlie Chaplin to billionaire Warren Buffett.

But in the case of the many versions of “My Life” circulating in China, it’s pretty obvious something’s amiss.

In one, the table of contents is lifted straight from “Living History,” with a few omissions. In another, the narrator for most of the book appears to be Hillary Clinton.

“My Life” has no table of contents.

“That isn’t piracy, it’s a completely illegal publication!” exclaimed an editor at Yilin Press, which most of the bogus books list as publisher.

The state-controlled publisher, based in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, says it complained to the government’s copyright bureau, which urged authorities to confiscate the unauthorized versions.

Visits to Shanghai’s government-run book wholesale market and several big, government-run bookstores turned up no copies of “My Life.” But the book is easily found at smaller bookstores.

Paul Bogaards, spokesman for Random House, which owns Knopf, said his company would “take all appropriate and necessary steps to combat piracy of the author’s work.”

Shanghai book traders said they expected authorized translations to arrive this month or next. Their expectation was hard to explain, since the rights haven’t been sold yet.

Yilin apologized last year after Simon & Schuster discovered that its authorized Chinese translation of “Living History” omitted or rewrote politically sensitive sections, such as a reference to the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy protests. It said it was rushing its own version to stores to compete with counterfeit versions sold by street peddlers.

Simon & Schuster withdrew publishing rights anyway.

Preparation makes life-and-death events easier to bear

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: In a recent column I noted the comments of a reader and your response concerning the need to have a will and a living will. As an elder law attorney, I feel strongly that my clients should have two ADDITIONAL documents in place: a health care proxy and a durable power of attorney.

I have, in my practice of the last 25 years, concluded that the single most important document a client can have is a durable power of attorney. Many of the issues that were raised in your reader's letter could be addressed if someone had a power of attorney. This document, like the others, can be as broad or as narrow as the individual giving the power of attorney wishes. It is not a relinquishing of authority, but rather a granting of parallel authority, and can easily be revoked.

In a similar fashion, a health care proxy provides the opportunity for someone to interact with health care providers should the incapacitated individual be unable to make his/her own decisions.

LAWRENCE S. GRAHAM, GREENVILLE, N.C.

DEAR LAWRENCE: Thank you for educating my readers—and me—about these important documents. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Please remind your readers that a living will is not only very important, but a person should also carry a copy while traveling. My husband and I have "prepacked" copies of our living wills in our suitcase so they are always available. Imagine being thousands of miles from home when a crisis arises and those important documents are desperately needed.

ANNE M., ALEXANDRIA, VA.

DEAR ANNE: That's an interesting idea. It never hurts to be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest your response to the gentleman who was trying to convince family and friends to complete a living will before they need one. As a nurse for many years, I concur wholeheartedly. No one wakes up in the morning planning to have an accident, or a heart attack, or some other life-threatening condition. Too many times, doctors and nurses are faced with a family divided on what they "think" our patient would want—or not want. Combine this with the shock and grief these people are experiencing, and the situation becomes volatile.

FORMER SURGICAL NURSE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

DEAR FORMER NURSE: Thank you for speaking from the perspective of someone who has been in the trenches and seen it firsthand.

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading your comments to "Concerned Friend." They come on the heels of my recent experience of the last two weeks. My apparently healthy husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer three weeks ago. I have spent a harrowing 10 days trying to get all the necessary documents drafted and finalized. I needed the services of an attorney to make sure all the paperwork was done correctly.

I have also discovered that our finances are a mess. This was always my husband's job, and I trusted what he said. He had been feeling tired in the last few months, but assured me that he had taken care of all the bills. Well, he hadn't. Fixing this is another nightmare yet to come.

My advice to your readers: Listen to Dear Abby.

By the way, my husband is only 56. We never thought things would be this way.

GRIEVING IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

DEAR GRIEVING: When I called you to discuss your letter, I was shocked to learn that your husband had already died. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. If your experience doesn't galvanize people to action, nothing will.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Kuwait bans 'Fahrenheit 9/11'

By DIANA ELIAS
AP WRITER

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—Kuwait, a major U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf, has banned Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" because it deems the movie insulting to the Saudi Arabian royal family and critical of America's invasion of Iraq, an official said Sunday.

"We have a law that prohibits insulting friendly nations, and ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are special," Abdul-Aziz Bou Dastour, cinema and production supervisor at the Information Ministry, told The Associated Press.

He said the film "insulted the Saudi royal family by saying they had common interests with the Bush family and that those interests contradicted with the interests of the American people."

The ministry made the decision to bar "Fahrenheit 9/11" in mid-July after the state-owned Kuwait National Cinema Co. asked for the license to show the movie. The company monopolizes cinemas in Kuwait, but all movies must first be sanctioned by government censors.

"Fahrenheit 9/11," which won the top honor at May's Cannes Film Festival, depicts the White House as asleep at the wheel before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington. Moore accuses President Bush of fanning fears of future terrorism to win public support for the Iraq war.

The Saudi royal family has taken issue with the movie for claiming that high-ranking Saudi nationals were allowed to flee the United States immediately after the attacks at a time when American airspace had been closed to all commercial traffic.

The 9/11 commission investigating the 2001 terrorist attacks



AP

Michael Moore, left, director of "Fahrenheit 9/11," and "The Tonight Show" host Jay Leno sing during the taping of the show Thursday, July 29, 2004, in Burbank, Calif. Moore and Leno discussed the impact and success of the film before being encouraged to sing "America the Beautiful," during which the studio audience stood up and joined in the singing.

Newspaper claims Moore altered front page

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP)—Filmmaker Michael Moore's Bush-bashing documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" has apparently upset more than Republicans. The Pantagraph newspaper in Bloomington said Friday it sent a letter to Moore and the film's distributor, Lions Gate Entertainment Corp., asking for an apology for using what it said was a doctored front page in his movie.

The paper is seeking \$1 in damages.

A scene early in the movie shows newspaper headlines related to the contested 2000 presidential election. It includes a shot of The Pantagraph's Dec. 19, 2001, front page, with the prominent headline, "Latest Florida

recount shows Gore won election."

The newspaper says that headline never appeared on that day.

The paper said the headline appeared in a Dec. 5, 2001, edition but was not used on the front page. Instead, it was found in much smaller type above a letter to the editor, which the paper says reflects "only the opinions of the letter writer."

"If (Moore) wants to 'edit' The Pantagraph, he should apply for a copy-editing job," the paper said.

Neither Lions Gate nor Moore were immediately available for comment Sunday.

found no evidence that any flights of Saudi nationals took place before the reopening of national airspace on Sept. 13.

Kuwait was the launch pad for the war that unseated Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who

ordered the invasion of Kuwait 14 years ago. A U.S.-led coalition fought the first Gulf War, which evicted Iraqis after seven months of occupation.

Saudi Arabia, a leading Arab Muslim nation, opened its land

and air space to coalition forces that liberated Kuwait, and Kuwaitis are still grateful for that.

The film is already playing elsewhere in the Middle East, including the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.



Estefan

Estefan gladly kicks off final tour

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Kicking off her final concert tour, Cuban-American singer Gloria Estefan said she can't wait to spend more time with her family when it's all over. "Although I feel very energetic and I'm really in great shape, it's like boot camp, being on the road, singing live," Estefan said.

Her first stop in her "Live and Re-Wrapped" tour was in McAllen on Friday.

"Being in an area where two countries like the United States and Mexico come together very much represents my life and who I am," she said. "I've always said that my heart is Latino and my head is American, because I've lived here since I was 2."

The tour concludes Sept. 25 in Miami, where the 46-year-old singer lives with her husband, producer Emilio Estefan.

Character actor Sam Edwards dies at 89

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sam Edwards, a character actor who made scores of appearances on such TV shows as "Gunsmoke," "Barnaby Jones," "McCloud" and "Happy Days," as well as portraying the town banker on "Little House on the Prairie," has died at age 89.

Edwards, who also appeared on radio and in films, died Wednesday after suffering a heart attack, said his stepson, William Edwards.

Born into a show business family in Macon, Ga., Edwards made his stage debut as a baby when his mother, actress Edna Park, held him in her arms during a scene for the play "Tess of the Storm Country."

He appeared on radio with his family in the 1930s in "The Adventures of Sonny and Buddy," in which he played a boy who runs away to join a traveling medicine show, and later as himself in "The

Edwards Family," a program that also featured his brother, sister and parents.

After three years in the Army during World War II, he returned to radio in the mid-1940s, moving on to television in the 1950s.

He worked regularly in TV into the 1980s, appearing on such shows as "The Streets of San Francisco," "The Dukes of Hazzard," "Wonder Woman," "Cannon," "Mannix," "Dragnet" and "Adam-12." On "Little House on the Prairie," he portrayed Mr. Anderson the town banker from 1978 to 1983.

His film credits included "Twelve O'Clock," "Hello Dolly!" and "The Postman Always Rings Twice" and numerous TV movies.

He also supplied the voices for several children's productions and appeared on "Winnie the Pooh" records as Owl and Tigger.

Pastimes

Shannon Essenpreis wins Jr. Miss crown

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Texan Shannon Essenpreis was crowned America's Junior Miss after belting out a Broadway showtune and soaring through interviews with her "bubbly" personality.

Though Essenpreis was crowned Saturday night, television viewers won't see it until July as producers switch to a "reality TV" format. PAX Network camera crews followed the 50 contestants for two weeks leading up to Saturday's contest.

Essenpreis was among five finalists who were given on-the-spot questions tailored to their individual interests. She was asked how she would use the enthusiasm she's displayed as her school's mascot into her planned career as a broadcast journalist.

"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Her answer? She'll report on the positive aspects of life while maintaining her personal optimism.

After the contest, Heisman Trophy winner and Junior Miss judge Herschel Walker said he was particularly impressed with Essenpreis' charm and "bubbly" character in her interview last week. Essenpreis won a \$50,000 scholarship.

Singh wins Buick Open, outlasting Daly

By LARRY LAGE
AP SPORTS WRITER

BUICK GRAND BLANC,

Mich. (AP)—Vijay Singh outlasted John Daly with a 5-under 67 Sunday to win the Buick Open with a 23-under 265 for his fourth victory of the year and 19th of his career. Daly, vying for a second win in one year for the first time, finished a stroke back after shooting a 66 and bogeying the 18th hole.

Tiger Woods started the day three strokes behind Singh, and pulled within a stroke while

shooting a 66. He finished at 21 under, two strokes behind the winner and tied with Carlos Franco (67) for third.

Woods will look to snap his streak without a major at nine in two weeks at the PGA Championship.

Defending champion Jim Furyk, who shared the second-round lead with Singh, finished tied for sixth at 17 under after shooting a 68 on Sunday.

The final round turned into a virtual match-play between Singh and Daly, one of the top golfers in the world against one of the most popular.

Singh's bogey at 18 created an opportunity for Daly to force a playoff, but Daly was unable to take advantage of the break.

Singh is just the third two-time Buick Open champion, and the first since Julius Boros won at Warwick Hills a second time in 1967.

Entering the tournament, Singh had 10 top-10 finishes. But since winning consecutive tournaments three months ago, he has just two top-five finishes and was tied for 28th at the U.S. Open and 20th at the British Open.

The Fijian played well this week after changing his putter,



Vijay Singh of Fiji watches his tee shot on the eighth hole at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004.

going back to a standard putter after using a long one for 2 1/2 years. He also said earlier in the week that he stopped worrying about chasing Woods in the world rankings.

Woods is No. 1 in the world rankings, and Singh is third.

Singh won his seventh straight tournament when he at least shared the lead after 54 holes, dating to the 2002 Shell Houston open.

With Singh, Daly and Woods atop the leaderboard entering the final round, it was a Buick

Open unlike any other.

A sea of fans waiting at the first tee roared when Daly was introduced and just politely clapped for Singh, who seemed to get a kick out of the rock-star like reception for Daly.

As they walked down the first

fairway, Singh patted Daly on the back and both chuckled and shook their heads, fans hooted and hollered best wishes toward Daly in a preview of what was to come over the next four hours.

Singh was wild off the tee at times, but made a handful of shots over and around trees. His first drive landed in the 10th fairway, but unfazed by his blind shot over trees, Singh scrambled well enough to start with a birdie.

And Daly did, too.

Daly made an eagle from 142 yards at the par-4 No. 2, causing the crowd to erupt with applause as he pulled into a tie at 19 under.

He took the lead with a birdie on the third hole and kept a one-shot lead until Singh's birdie at No. 12 knotted them up at 22 under.

Singh went ahead by a shot with a birdie at 14—to reach 23 under—and was able to maintain a one-shot edge the rest of the way.

He got into trouble on the final hole, but his second shot out of the rough landed on the green close enough to set up two-putt, which was just enough to win because Daly missed a makable par putt.

Lions sign first-round pick Roy Williams



ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Receiver Roy Williams agreed to a five-

year contract with the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

The seventh overall pick in the draft out of Texas, Williams was the lone Lions player who did not report when the team began training camp Friday. He remained in the area while the deal was being negotiated, however, and arrived at camp Sunday afternoon.

He spent the remainder of the day in orientation meetings and video sessions.

"We were able to get this done in about 48 hours," Detroit chief operating officer Tom Lewand said. "We're happy we were able to get it done and get it done quickly."

Williams will be in uniform Monday when the Lions resume practice.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed but the five-year deal is a year shorter than those given to quarterback Joey Harrington and receiver Charles Rogers, the top picks in the 2002 and '03 drafts, respectively. Harrington was taken third overall, while Rogers was the second overall selection.

Williams caught 70 passes for 1,079 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior at Texas last season. He finished his career with 241 catches, 3,866 yards and 36 touchdowns, all of which were school records.

The team hopes he and Rogers can team to give Harrington a tall and speedy receiving tandem to help spark a club that has compiled the NFL's worst record in the last three seasons.

Brown wants to move past suspensions

By ROY KAMMERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLOGNE, Germany (AP)—Larry Brown wants to move on. The U.S. Olympic basketball coach said Sunday that the suspension of Allen Iverson, LeBron James and Amare Stoudemire is forgotten. He would rather focus on a tough road trip against some of Europe's top teams leading up the Athens Olympics.

Brown refused to let Iverson, James and Stoudemire play in the team's 96-71 win over Puerto Rico on Saturday, punishment for the trio showing up late for a team meeting.

"It won't happen again. They'll play the next game and some will start," Brown said.

The U.S. squad arrived in Germany on Sunday, shook off the jet lag and held its first practice.

And Brown is having some second thoughts about whether this series of exhibitions, which includes a game against world champion Serbia and Montenegro, is ideal for his team.

That's a switch from last year, when he was eager for the trip after the U.S. team romped through Olympic qualifying in Puerto Rico with a 10-0 record. Since then, however, veterans from that team, including Mike Bibby, Tracy McGrady and Ray Allen, have bailed out.

Now, Brown is drilling the youngest U.S. Olympic team, with an average age of 23.6 years, since NBA players were first allowed into the 1992 Games.



James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony may be talented, but they are newcomers to basketball abroad. The team played together just one week, and many players will need a crash course in the different rules of the international game.

Brown thought the team had put all that behind them in Puerto Rico.

"We thought that team would be playing. We thought we had laid the foundation," Brown said. "Now I think maybe we can use the practice."

The U.S. team faces Italy on Tuesday, followed by Germany and Dirk Nowitzki on Wednesday. Then it plays two more away games against Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey, whose NBA players include Utah's Mehmet Okur.

"I hope this trip will competitively toughen us up," Brown said.

Sunday's practice, during which Brown worked on some plays, was a closed session in a sweltering small gym. Only a handful of reporters were let in to watch a late shootaround and talk to the players.

That will be different against Italy and Germany. The NBA stars, often still called "The Dream Team" abroad, have awakened huge interest.

From across the world, the

German organizers of the exhibition game said more than 500 media sought accreditation for the two games, with around 350 gaining approval. That's about a 100 more than followed the U.S. team's training camp in Jacksonville.

While handling the growing hoopla, Brown will have to get his young team used to the international game's wider lanes, the different calls from referees, the shortened 3-point line, along with schooling them in some simple plays.

All that will be needed to offset the American's disadvantage, which proved so costly at the world championships in Indianapolis, where it was beaten three times and finished sixth.

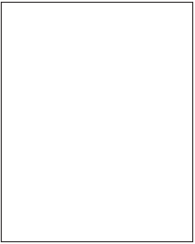
While the U.S. squad has three short weeks to forge a cohesive team, other world powers like Argentina and Serbia and Montenegro have players who have been on the court together for years.

Not that the Americans and their young stars are worried.

Anthony has already boldly predicted a gold medal, while James said he isn't concerned about upholding the American's 24-0 mark since NBA players were allowed in the Olympics.

"There's no pressure at all," James said. "If we get better and do our job, we have a great chance of accomplishing our goals."

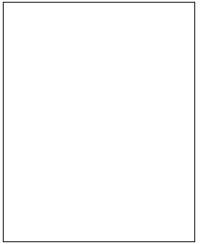
U.S. coach Larry Brown, right, sends in a play with guard Stephon Marbury during an Olympic tuneup against Puerto Rico, Saturday, July 31, 2004, in Jacksonville, Fla. The U.S. team won 96-71.



27

Saipan Tribune Sports

25



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

SAIPAN TRIBUNE